

Current Garden Topics

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All presentations involve slide presentations and a good dose of humor. Should any of the above be of interest, please feel free to contact tile at (416) 233-7472. My Speaker's fees are reasonable and I'm confident that your group will find these presentations entertaining and informative

Garden Travel:

Great Designers and The Gardens They have Develop A narrated slide show of great US and Canadian gardens by some of North /Inicrica's most revered gardeners and landscape architects of the 20th Century.

Great Gardens Within a Day's Drive of Toronto Learn about the many exciting public gardens within a day's drive Toronto. This is a must presentation for those who love garden travel and day tripping.

Historic Gardens of Ontario Ontario is rich in period gardens, some of which are over a century old. These gardens which have stood the test of time present a fascinating story for today's gardeners.

Great Gardens of the Maritimes Canada's East Coast, while presenting many gardening challenges, also presents many opportunities for unique coastal and inland gardens. Dozens of special gardens will be visited in this slide show presentation.

Gardens of the Rich and Famous Highlights the history of families who have developed over twenty of North America's famous gardens. Slides reveal garden style, unusual plants and much more.

Great Gardens of the Pacific Northwest The area from British Columbia to southern Oregon is well known for great plants and gardens. Be it Japanese style gardens, water gardens or alpine meadow gardens you'll see some of the best here.

Gardens of the Dupont Family One of the most recognizable family names in gardening circles, the Duponts have built and own many fine gardens particularly in Pennsylvania and Delaware. This slide show visits many of their most Famous gardens.

Gardens of the Capital District and Virginia This slide show captures tile beauty of' spring and summer gardens in Washington, D.C. and neighboring Virginia

Mansions and Gardens of the Old South Some of the oldest gardens in North America occur in the plantation belt from South Carolina to Louisiana. "The history, lifestyle and wild excellence of these plantation gardens is showcased.

Gardens and Mansions of tile Mississippi River Valley This narrated slide show features fabulous public and private gardens from Memphis to New Orleans.

Estate Gardens of The Hudson's. Valley Albany to New York City is the area of this garden sojourn. With spectacular views of the river and large estate gardens this is a must see for all gardeners.

Great Gardens of Long Island The Gold Coast and Gilded Age are associated with the mega mansions and gardens of this fabled island. Learn of many opportunities to see these one-of-a-kind landscapes.

Villas and Gardens of California Coastal Route 1 from San Francisco to San Diego features world class villas and gardens. Learn more about Santa Barbara, Pasadena and Beverly Hills mansions in this narrated slide show.

Gardens of the American Southwest In the spring the deserts of the southwest are ablaze with colour. Through this slide show, travel to a number of the areas more interesting desert gardens.

Great Gardens and Estates of the American Midwest Chicago, St. Paul, and Minneapolis, Duluth and Milwaukee are the points of call for this garden show. Older estates and contemporary award winning gardens will be highlighted.

Michigan Garden Treasures Our neighbors in Michigan have many interesting gardens to claim rights to. Some of these gardens are affiliates with public institutions and encourage garden visitors from Canada. Join us as Frank highlights the opportunities.

Great Gardens of the Eastern Seaboard Maine to Baltimore is the subject of this garden adventure you won't believe the variety of gardens that await the visitor.

Newport, Rhode Island -A Gardener's Paradise Famous family names and lots of famous gardens including a topiary masterpiece highlight this talk. You don't want to miss this show.

The Gardens of the thousand Islands Mere mention of this area conjures up images of stately cottages and (fabulous gardens- Learn more about the history and garden traditions of this scenic area.

The Gardens of Bermuda This semi-tropical paradise is justly famous for pink sand beaches, and lovely gardens. This talk features eye-popping gardens and homes on the island.

Gardens of the Caribbean Jamaica to Trinidad is the destination of this slide show. Visit gardens where feature films have been made, and famous owners resided through the years in this exciting slide show presentation..

Ghost Gardens of Ontario The Lake Ontario shoreline of Ontario is the site of a number of fabulous gardens from the earlier 20th Century. Some exist as mere shadows of earlier days while others have been preserved intact. Learn more about this fascinating topic.

Garden Design and Plants:

A Thousand and One Garden Ideas Furniture, Sculpture, arbors, walks and other nonplant accents add the richness of the garden scene. Learn how to use these and other objects to add personality and whimsy to the garden.

Successful Front and Side-Yard Landscaping After hearing this talk, you will never view these areas as secondary to the backyard again. Learn how to make these areas prime viewing areas of the total garden.

Landscaping for Fall and Winter Interest These shoulder seasons do not have to be down time in the garden. Interesting berries, seeds, bark, and the form of plants can add a richness that is often under evaluated.

Gardening on the Wild Side Wildflower and eco-wise gardening is the basis of this timely topic. Learn how to create and sustain a pleasing and interesting garden where nature is the guide.

Basic Gardening Made Easy This talk deals with what to plant where and how to keep it there. This program deals with soil, plants, mulches, and maintenance cycles to ensure long term success.

Shrubs and Trees for the Landscape These backbones of the garden serve many functions and improve environmental quality. Learn what species and cultivars will work for you.

Dramatic Cottage and Country Gardens Such landscapes present unique opportunities for large scale gardens and hundreds of plants. This talk will focus on spectacular farm, cottage, and ski chalet gardens throughout Ontario

Fun with Bulbs Learn about the great variety of large and small bulbs that can grace the garden scene Spring, Summer & Fall. The where and how of using bulbs in formal and naturalistic setting is discussed.

Water Gardening Made Easy Want to learn how to design, plant and construct a garden pool and waterfall then this topic is for you. Beautiful, dependable floating and pond-side plants will be featured.

Plant Combinations for Year Long Beauty This fascinating topic highlights hundreds of plant combinations for colour, form, texture. The care and upkeep of these combinations will also be lectured.

Prairie and Meadow Gardening If your interest includes attracting birds and butterflies to an ecologically diversified garden, then you will want to attend this lecture. Learn about site preparation, plant selection and design details.

Ground Covers for Sun and Shade These weavers and work horses of the garden deserve to be better known. Learn about the vast variety of aesthetic and low maintenance applications.

A Hundred and One Must Have Plants Annuals, perennials, and woody plants present many opportunities for must-have species and cultivars for those special applications. Everyone has their favorites but there are many that seem to be on many gardeners lists.

Ferns, Hostas and Other Shade Lovers As gardens mature they often become shade dominate landscapes. Learn about the many opportunities to use Hostas, ferns, and other shade lovers to good advantage.

Ornamental Grasses and Grass-Like Plants The last two decades have seen all explosion of interest in these dependable and all-year interest plants. Learn where to use and maintain them in numerous garden settings.

Growing Carolinian Plants Flowering dogwoods, redbuds, spicebush and other Carolinian plants may be a possibility in your area. Surprisingly, their range is fairly broad if you can meet their requirements.

Gardening for Wildlife Wildlife gardening responds to the public's interest in having birds, butterflies, and other life forms close at home. Learn what plants and garden adaptations will encourage them to visit your garden.

Weird, Wacky, Wonderful Plants Some plants have real character and personality due to one of more unusual traits or characteristics. These odd-balls can add great interest and animation to the garden scene.

Gardening with Big, Bold Dramatic Foliage Plants Want to shock the garden visitor and leave a lasting image then some of the large foliage plants may be for you. There are many to choose from and you can't be timid if you want to include some of these show stoppers.

Special Plants for Dry Locations With hot, dry summers ever too common Many gardeners are looking for water efficient plants. Fortunately there are many fine and showy plants that will avoid the headache of frequent watering.

Recently Developed Presentations

The Arts and Crafts Garden The Arts and Crafts period of the last century left an indelible mark not only on architecture but garden design as well. A number of fine examples of such gardens exist to this day, which will be highlighted in this unique presentation,

Innovative Garden Design Learn how through (use of hard and soft garden materials, you can add your own special look to tile garden. Garden art, reflecting mirrors, tile application of trellis creations and other artistic features can give the garden a signature look of innovation,

Variegated Plants- Flashlights for Shade Gardens This presentation highlights various variegated trees, shrubs, perennials and sedges that thrive in shade environments. These eye-catching plants add interest to the summer shade garden and make good companions for less flashy plants. The talk will also deal with how to design with these plants and their proper care and maintenance.

Small Garden Design This presentation will key on smaller urban properties where garden space is restricted. Such spaces provide challenges to accommodate various garden functions and the aspirations of the gardener. Developing a coherent theme and design tricks to make tile garden seem larger than it really is will also be explored. Plants suitable to tight spaces and ongoing maintenance will be covered in this popular topic.

Gardens of the St. Lawrence River Country The area from the Gaspé to Kingston, Ontario has deep garden roots and many spectacular gardens. Some of these spectacular landscapes border the river while others are located on islands. All gardens are special with many challenges for the gardeners. Learn the fascinating story of these fabled landscapes.

Gardens of the New York State's Finger Lakes Located just hours from Ontario's Niagara Peninsula the Finger Lakes region of New York State is famous for its picturesque lakes, scenic historic towns, great wineries and wonderful gardens. This talk captures some of the magic and grandeur of this area by pointing out some of its many points of interest and garden touring opportunities.

